

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application and entry of this Amendment are solicited. Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10-19 will be pending in the application subsequent to entry of this Amendment.

It is proposed to clarify claims 3, 4, 12, 13, 14 and 16 in order to replace the term "comprise" with reference to one aldehyde group to the more precise "have".

It appears that the crux of the examiner's position and in large part attempted justification for the various prior art-based rejections of the pending claims, may be found in the discussion bridging pages 10-11 of the Action, namely the response to arguments.

The claims have been amended to specify that exactly one aldehyde group per monomer unit is intended. This clarification of the claims serves to distinguish them from the applied prior art. Similarly, it would appear that the obviousness-type double patenting rejection discussed at pages 8-9 of the Official Action would be resolved as well by amendment of the claims as indicated above.

Additional comments are included on page 11 of the Official Action directed specifically to claim 5. In order to advance examination of this application it is proposed to delete claim 5.

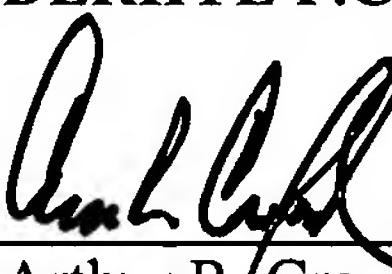
This Amendment serves to advance prosecution and at the very least narrow issues in the unlikely event appeal proceedings are necessary, accordingly, entry of this Amendment is appropriate.

Should the examiner have any questions or concerns, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


Arthur R. Crawford

Reg. No. 25,327

ARC:eaw
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100